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PROTEIN KINASES

This invention is related to the one or more inventions described in British Patent Applications Nos. 9224057.1, filed 17th November 1992; 9304677.9 and 5 9304680.3, both filed 8th March 1993; 9311047.6, filed 28th May 1993; 9313763.6, filed 2nd July 1993; and 9316099.2, filed 3rd August 1993. In particular, this invention relates to nucleotides, proteins obtained by expression therefrom and antibodies raised to peptides derived from 10 the sequence, e.g. by the means described in the Application No. 9304680.3.

The earlier Applications relate, inter alia, to kinases denoted ALK-1 to ALK-6. The complete cDNA sequences for mouse ALK-1 and ALK-4 are included herein 15 (see pages 14 and 15). Mouse ALK-1 (clone name AM6 with 1.9 kb insert) was obtained from a mouse placenta  $\lambda$ ZAP II cDNA library (obtained from Hideo Toyoshima), using human ALK-1 cDNA as a probe. Mouse ALK-4 (clone 8a1 with 2.3 kb insert) was also obtained from the mouse placenta  $\lambda$ ZAP II 20 cDNA library, using human ALK-4 cDNA library as a probe.

Transforming growth factor (TGF)- $\beta$  and activin exert their cellular effects by forming heteromeric complexes of type I (53 kDa) and type II (80 kDa) receptors<sup>1-3</sup>. The TGF- $\beta$  type I receptor cannot bind ligand in the absence of the type II receptor, and the TGF- $\beta$  type II receptor cannot transduce signals without the type I receptor<sup>4-7</sup>. The type II receptors for TGF- $\beta$  (T $\beta$ R-II)<sup>8</sup> and activin (ActR-II<sup>9</sup> and ActR-IIB<sup>10,11</sup>) are serine/threonine kinases. Moreover, we<sup>12,13</sup> and others<sup>14-17</sup> have recently identified a series of serine/threonine kinase receptors of sizes corresponding to type I receptors. Of these receptors, denoted activin receptor-like kinase (ALK)-1 to -6 by us, ALK-5 has been shown to be a functional TGF- $\beta$  type I receptor<sup>13</sup>. Here, we have systematically investigated the abilities of ALKs to serve as type I receptors for TGF- $\beta$  and activin. Our results revealed that ALKs can form heteromeric complexes with T $\beta$ R-II and ActR-II after co-transfection into COS cells; however, only ALK-5 is a functional TGF- $\beta$  type I receptor with regard to induction of plasminogen activator inhibitor (PAI)-1, and ALK-2 and ALK-4 are high affinity activin type I receptors.

We have previously identified five novel serine/threonine kinase receptors, termed ALK-1 to -5<sup>12,13</sup>. A sixth clone termed ALK-6 was obtained by screening a 12 day mouse embryo cDNA library using a probe from a part of the kinase domain of ALK-4 under low stringency hybridization conditions (Fig. 1a). A typical hydrophobic leader sequence is not observed in the N-terminus of the translated region; however, the ALK-6 protein is efficiently expressed at the cell surface (see below). Northern blot analysis revealed a limited expression profile; a transcript of 7.2 kb was found in mRNA from the brain and a very weak hybridization was seen with mRNA from the lung (Fig. 1b). Mouse ALK-6 is most similar to human ALK-3, but cloning and sequence analysis of mouse cDNA for ALK-3 (our unpublished data) indicate that ALK-6 is a novel serine/threonine kinase receptor. A phylogenetic tree based on the similarities between the kinase domains of ALKs and other mammalian serine/threonine kinase receptors<sup>8-11</sup> is

shown in Fig. 1c, ALKs are more similar to each other than to the TGF- $\beta$  and activin type II receptors. The calculated molecular weights of ALK-1 to -6 are 53,600-57,500, *i.e.* smaller than those of the type II receptors, and similar to the reported sizes for type I receptors<sup>9,18</sup>. Moreover, ALK-2 (Tsk-7L)<sup>14</sup> and ALK-5<sup>13</sup> have recently been shown to form heteromeric complexes with T $\beta$ R-II and to bind TGF- $\beta$ . We therefore systematically investigated which ALKs can act as type I receptors for TGF- $\beta$  and activin.

Affinity cross-linking studies using <sup>125</sup>I-TGF- $\beta$ 1 revealed that COS-1 cells express low or not detectable levels of TGF- $\beta$  type I or type II receptors (data not shown). Transfection of cDNAs for ALKs into COS-1 cells did not show any appreciable binding of <sup>125</sup>I-TGF- $\beta$ 1 (data not shown), consistent with the previous observation that type I receptors do not bind TGF- $\beta$  in the absence of type II receptors<sup>4,6</sup>. When the T $\beta$ R-II cDNA was co-transfected with cDNAs for the different ALKs, type I receptor-like complexes were seen, at different levels, in each case. COS-1 cells transfected with T $\beta$ R-II and ALK cDNAs were analyzed by affinity cross-linking followed by immunoprecipitation using specific antisera against T $\beta$ R-II (Fig. 2a) or ALKs (Fig. 2b). Each one of the ALKs bound <sup>125</sup>I-TGF- $\beta$ 1 and was coimmunoprecipitated with the T $\beta$ R-II complex using an antiserum against T $\beta$ R-II (Fig. 2a). Comparison of the efficiency of the different ALKs to form heteromeric complexes with T $\beta$ R-II, revealed that ALK-5 formed such complexes more efficiently than the other ALKs. The size of the cross-linked complex was larger for ALK-3 than for other ALKs, consistent with its slightly larger size (Fig. 1c). When the cross-linked complexes were immunoprecipitated by antibodies specific for the different ALKs, each one of the ALKs was immunoprecipitated in complex with T $\beta$ R-II (Fig. 2b). Also in this analysis, ALK-5 formed a heteromeric complex with T $\beta$ R-II more efficiently than the other ALKs.

Two different approaches were used to elucidate which ALKs are physiological type I receptors for TGF- $\beta$ . First, we investigated which ALKs serve as TGF- $\beta$  type I receptors in non-transfected, TGF- $\beta$ -responsive cell lines. Several different cell lines were affinity labeled with <sup>125</sup>I-TGF- $\beta$ 1, cross-linked and immunoprecipitated by antisera



against different ALKs. Only the antisera against ALK-5 efficiently immunoprecipitated the cross-linked type I and type II receptor complexes in a mink lung epithelial cell line (Mv1Lu), porcine aortic endothelial (PAE) cells (Fig. 2c) and human foreskin fibroblasts (data not shown).

We next investigated whether ALKs restore the responsiveness to TGF- $\beta$  in the R mutant of Mv1Lu cells, which lack ligand-binding ability of the TGF- $\beta$  type I receptor, but have intact type II receptor<sup>4</sup>. The R mutant cells were transfected with the cDNA for ALKs or a control plasmid, and tested for the production of PAI-1 after the addition of TGF- $\beta$ 1. As we have previously reported<sup>13</sup>, the wild type mink cells and the R mutant cells transfected with the ALK-5 cDNA responded to TGF- $\beta$ 1, and produced a characteristic 45 kDa PAI-1 protein in the extracellular matrix (Fig. 2d). In contrast, the R mutant cells that were transfected with other ALKs did not produce PAI-1 upon the addition of TGF- $\beta$ 1. Thus, only ALK-5 was able to form a signalling TGF- $\beta$  receptor complex with regard to PAI-1 induction; we therefore suggest that it should be named T $\beta$ R-I.

Using similar approaches as those described above for the identification of TGF- $\beta$  binding ALKs, we then investigated whether ALKs bind activin in the presence of ActR-II. COS-1 cells were transfected with the cDNAs for ALKs and ActR-II, affinity labeled and cross-linked with <sup>125</sup>I-activin A. All ALKs appear to bind activin A in the presence of ActR-II (Fig. 3a). This could be more clearly demonstrated by affinity cross-linking followed by immunoprecipitation using antisera against ActR-II or ALKs. ALK-2 and ALK-4 bound <sup>125</sup>I-activin A and coimmunoprecipitated with ActR-II by the antiserum against ActR-II or ALKs (Fig. 3b). Other ALKs also bound <sup>125</sup>I-activin A, but with lower efficiency compared to ALK-2 and ALK-4.

In order to investigate whether ALKs are physiological activin type I receptors, we attempted to identify endogenous activin type I receptors expressed in activin-responsive cells. Mv1Lu cells as well as the R mutant express both type I and type II receptors for activin, and the R mutant cells produce PAI-1 upon the addition of activin A (data not shown). Mv1Lu cells were labeled with <sup>125</sup>I-activin A, cross-linked and

immunoprecipitated by the antisera against ActR-II or ALKs. The type I and type II receptor complexes in Mv1Lu cells were immunoprecipitated only by the antisera against ALK-2, ALK-4 and ActR-II (Fig. 3c). Similar results were obtained by the R mutant cells (data not shown). PAE cells do not bind activin because of the lack of type II receptors for activin; however, after transfection of a chimeric receptor containing the extracellular domain and the C-terminal tail of ActR-II and the kinase domain of T $\beta$ R-II, the cells (PAE/Chim A) bound <sup>125</sup>I-activin A and were growth inhibited by the addition of activin A (our unpublished data). Similar to Mv1Lu cells, activin type I receptor complexes in PAE/Chim A cells were immunoprecipitated by the ALK-2 and ALK-4 antisera (Fig. 3c). These results indicate that both ALK-2 and ALK-4 act as physiological type I receptors for activin in these cells.

There are no known established cell lines that lack type I receptors or both type I and type II receptors for activin. If there are two types of ActR-I, i.e. ALK-2 and ALK-4, which are widely expressed<sup>12</sup>, such cell types might be difficult to find. We, therefore, could not study the restoration of activin signals by the transfection of ALKs. After submission of this manuscript, Attisano *et al.*<sup>16</sup> reported the cDNA cloning of ALK-1 (TSR-I) and ALK-2 (ActR-I) and binding of activin to both of them. Moreover, using the R mutant clone R1B, they showed that ALK-2, in combination with ActR-II, transduced an activin-induced transcriptional response. We found that the R mutant clone 4-2 bound activin A and produced PAI-1 upon stimulation with activin A without transfection of ALKs or ActR-II cDNA (data not shown). Since both ALK-2 and ALK-4 served as high affinity type I receptors for activin A in Mv1Lu cells and the PAE/Chim A cells, we suggest to term them ActR-IA and ActR-IB, respectively.

The binding of TGF- $\beta$ 1 and activin A to the different ALKs is schematically illustrated in Fig. 4. There exists no cross-binding between TGF- $\beta$  and activin to the type II receptors<sup>9,10</sup>. In contrast, binding of the ligands to type I receptors (ALKs) are less strict, and they can bind TGF- $\beta$ 1 and activin in the presence of the respective type II receptors. The ALKs which are most similar in their structures, do not necessarily bind the same ligands. For example, ALK-4/ActR-IB and ALK-5/T $\beta$ R-I are highly similar to

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Engström and Christer Wernstedt for preparing the synthetic peptides and oligonucleotides, respectively. Nucleotide sequence of mouse ALK-6 is deposited in EMBL/GenBank data library (accession number Z23143).

and two times for 30 min with 0.3 x SSC, 0.1% SDS. The filter was then subjected to autoradiography.

**FIG. 2.** Binding of TGF- $\beta$ 1 to ALKs (a-c) and transduction of a TGF- $\beta$  signal by ALKs in the TGF- $\beta$  type I receptor deficient cells (d). a and b, COS-1 cells were transfected with cDNAs for T $\beta$ R-II and ALKs, and affinity labeled with  $^{125}$ I-TGF- $\beta$ 1 in the presence or absence of excess unlabeled TGF- $\beta$ 1 (cold TGF- $\beta$ 1), followed by cross-linking and immunoprecipitation using the antisera against T $\beta$ R-II (a) or ALKs (b). The T $\beta$ R-II antiserum was used for the ALK cDNA (-) in (b). Each lane in (b) was analyzed in the same gel and subjected to exposure for an equally long time. c, Identification of the TGF- $\beta$  type I receptor complex on Mv1Lu cells and PAE cells. The cells were affinity labeled with  $^{125}$ I-TGF- $\beta$ 1 and cross-linked, followed by immunoprecipitation using antisera specific for ALKs. The cross-linked complexes from PAE cells were also subjected to immunoprecipitation using the T $\beta$ R-II antiserum. d, TGF- $\beta$  induced PAI-1 production was tested in wild type (WT) Mv1Lu cells or in the R mutant cells after transfection of cDNAs for ALKs. PAI-1 was observed as a characteristic 45 kDa band<sup>23</sup>.

**METHODS.** Transient expression plasmids of ALK-1 to -6 and T $\beta$ R-II were generated by subcloning into the pSV7d expression vector<sup>24</sup> or into the pcDNA I expression vector (Invitrogen). For transient transfection, COS-1 cells (American Type Culture Collection) were transfected with 10  $\mu$ g each of plasmids by a calcium phosphate precipitation method using a mammalian transfection kit (Stratagene), following the manufacturer's protocol. Recombinant human TGF- $\beta$ 1 was iodinated using the chloramine T method<sup>25</sup>. Cross-linking and immunoprecipitation were performed as previously described<sup>13</sup>. The samples were analyzed by SDS-gel electrophoresis<sup>26</sup> and autoradiography. Rabbit antisera against ALK-5 and T $\beta$ R-II were made against the intracellular juxtamembrane part of ALK-5 and the C-terminal part of T $\beta$ R-II, respectively, as previously reported<sup>13</sup>. Antisera against ALK-1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 were raised against synthetic peptides corresponding to the amino acid sequences of the intracellular juxtamembrane parts of ALKs: ALK-1 peptide, R(145)RQEK QRGLH SELGE SSLIL KA; ALK-2 peptide,

R(151)RNQE RLNPR DVEYG TIEGL IT; ALK-3 peptide, K(181)SISS RRRYN RDLEQ DEAFI PV; ALK-4 peptide, Q(153)RVYH NRQL DMEDP SCEM; ALK-6 peptide, K(151)RQEA RPRYS IGLEQ DET. The synthetic peptides were coupled to keyhole limpet hemocyanin (Calbiochem-Behring) using glutaraldehyde<sup>27</sup>. The coupled peptides were mixed with Freund's adjuvant and used to immunize rabbits<sup>28</sup>. For PAI-1 assay, the R mutant of Mv1Lu cells (clone 4-2) were transfected with 10 µg of plasmids containing cDNAs for ALKs or a control plasmid (ALK cDNA - in the R mutant) by the calcium phosphate precipitation method. Transfected cells were incubated with or without 16 ng/ml of TGF-β1 for 2 h in serum-free MCDB 104 without methionine, and then labeled with [<sup>35</sup>S]methionine (40 µCi/ml) for 2 h. Extracellular matrix proteins were prepared as described previously<sup>23</sup>, and analyzed by SDS-gel electrophoresis using 8% polyacrylamide gels followed by fluorography using Amplify (Amersham).

FIG. 3. Identification of activin type I receptors. *a*, COS-1 cells were co-transfected with cDNAs for ALKs and ActR-II and analyzed for binding and cross-linking of <sup>125</sup>I-activin A in the presence or absence of excess unlabelled activin A (cold activin A). *b*, The cross-linked complexes were subjected to immunoprecipitation using antisera against ActR-II or ALKs. *c*, Binding and cross-linking of <sup>125</sup>I-activin A to Mv1Lu cells and PAE/Chim A cells were analyzed before (antiserum -) or after immunoprecipitation using antibodies specific for ALKs. Antisera used in (*b*) and (*c*) are shown as: II, ActR-II antiserum; 1 to 6; ALK-1 to -6 antisera.

**METHODS.** Transient expression plasmids of ActR-II were generated by subcloning into the pSV7d vector<sup>29</sup>. An antiserum against ActR-II was prepared against the C-terminal part of the ActR-II protein<sup>29</sup>. Recombinant human activin A was iodinated using the chloramine T method<sup>9</sup>. Autoradiographies were analyzed by PhosphorImager (Molecular Dynamics). For the generation of PAE/Chim A cells, a plasmid (chim A) containing the extracellular domain and C-terminal tail of ActR-II (amino acids -19 to 116 and 465 to 494, respectively, according to Ref. 9) and the kinase domain of TβR-II (amino acids 160 to 543 according to Ref. 8) was constructed and transferred into pcDNA 1/neo

(Invitrogen). PAE cells were stably transfected with the chim A plasmid by electroporation, and cells expressing the chim A protein were established as described<sup>13</sup>.

FIG. 4. Schematic illustration of the binding of TGF- $\beta$  and activin to ALKs. TGF- $\beta$  can bind all ALKs in the presence of T $\beta$ R-II, but only ALK-3/T $\beta$ R-I binds TGF- $\beta$  efficiently and transduces a TGF- $\beta$  signal (PAI-1 induction). Activin can also bind all ALKs in the presence of ActR-II, but only ALK-2/ActR-IA and ALK-4/ActR-IB efficiently form complexes with ActR-II in activin-responsive cells. ALK-2/ActR-IA was recently shown to transduce an activin signal<sup>16</sup>.





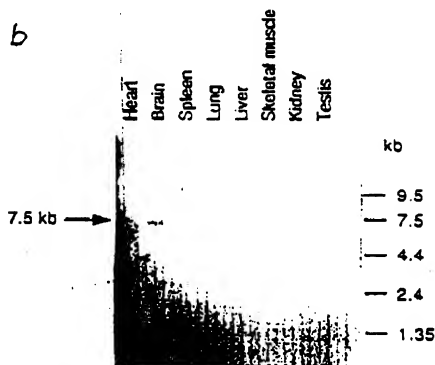
a

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Q R O T P I P H O R R N I E Q Q T E R N E Q N K O L H P T L P P L K D R O F Y D 120
G P I H H K A L L I S V T V C S L L L V L I L F C Y F Y K R Q E A R P Y S 160
I G L E D D E T Y I P P G E S L R D L I E Q S Q S S G S Q S G L P L L V G R T I 200
A K Q I Q M V Y G I Q K G R Y Q E V V H G K V R G E K V A Y K V F F T T E E A S 240
W F R E T E I Y Q T V L H R H E N I L G F I A A D I K G T G S W T G L Y L I T D 280
Y H E N G S L Y O Y L K S T T L O A K S H L K L A Y S S V S Q L C H L H T E I P 320
S T O G K P A I A H R D L K S K N I L V K K N G T C C I A D L G L A Y K F I S D 360
T N E V D I P P N T R Y G T K R Y H P P E V L D E S L H R N H F O S Y I H A D H 400
Y S F G L I L W E I A A R C V S G G I V E E Y O L P Y H O L V P S D P S Y E D H 440
R E I Y C H K K L R P S F P H R V S S G E C L R O H G K L H T E C V A Q N P A S 480
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b



c

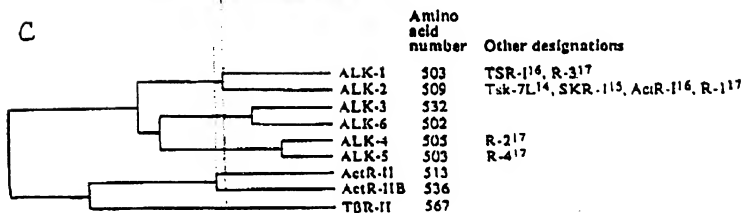


Figure 1.

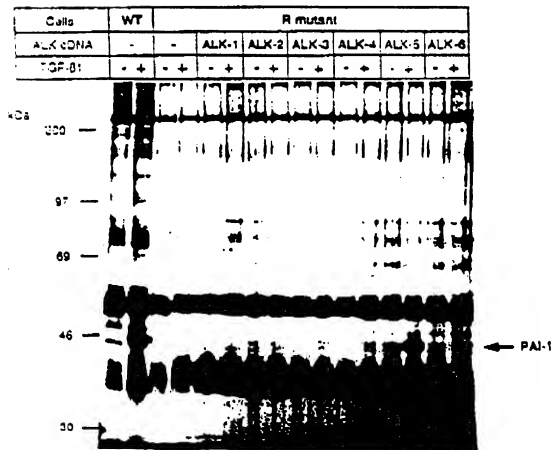
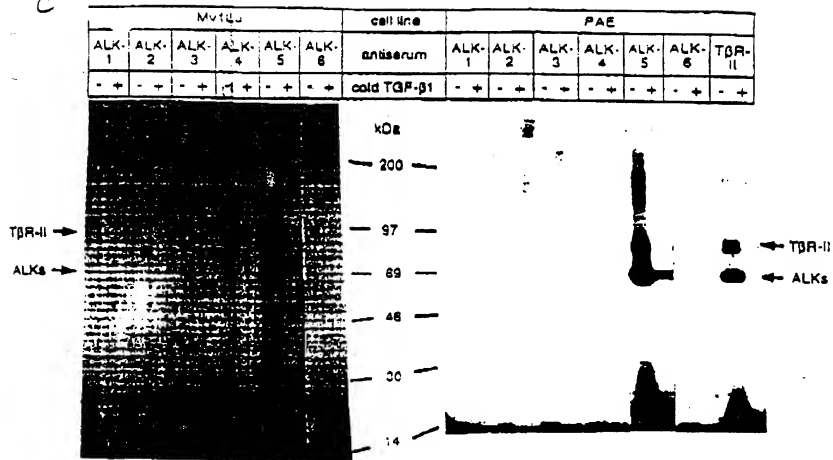
TBR-II cDNA	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
ALK cDNA	-	ALK-1	ALK-2	ALK-3	ALK-4	ALK-5	ALK-6	-
cold TGF- $\beta$ 1	- +	- +	- +	- +	- +	- +	- +	-



TBR-II cDNA	+						
ALK cDNA	ALK-1	ALK-2	ALK-3	ALK-4	ALK-5	ALK-6	-



Figure 2 a, b



a

ActR-II c	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
ALK cDNA	-	ALK-1	ALK-2	ALK-3	ALK-4	ALK-5	ALK-6	-
cold actin A	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-

kDa

200 —

97 —

69 —

46 —

30 —

ActR-II

ALKs

b

ActR-II cDNA	-							
ALK cDNA	-	ALK-1	ALK-2	ALK-3	ALK-4	ALK-5	ALK-6	
antisera	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

kDa

200 —

97 —

69 —

46 —

30 —

ActR-II

ALKs

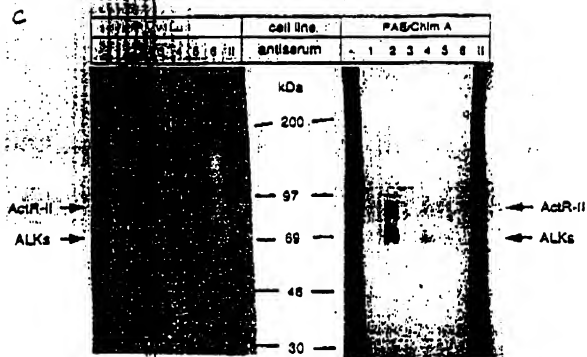


Figure 3C

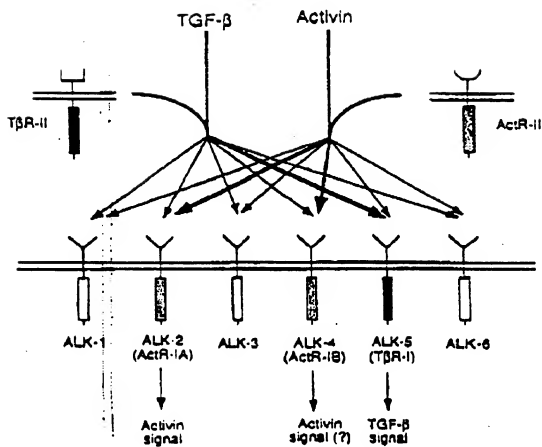


Figure 4

